

San Luis Obispo County

Department of Planning and Building Environmental Division

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT SUBSEQUENT SCOPING MEETING

TOPAZ SOLAR FARM (FIRST SOLAR LLC) CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT

DATE: May 18, 2010
TIME: 6:00 to 8:00 P.M.
LOCATION: Carrisa Plains Heritage Association Community Center - 10750 Carrisa Highway (Highway 58), approximately one mile east of Soda Lake Road

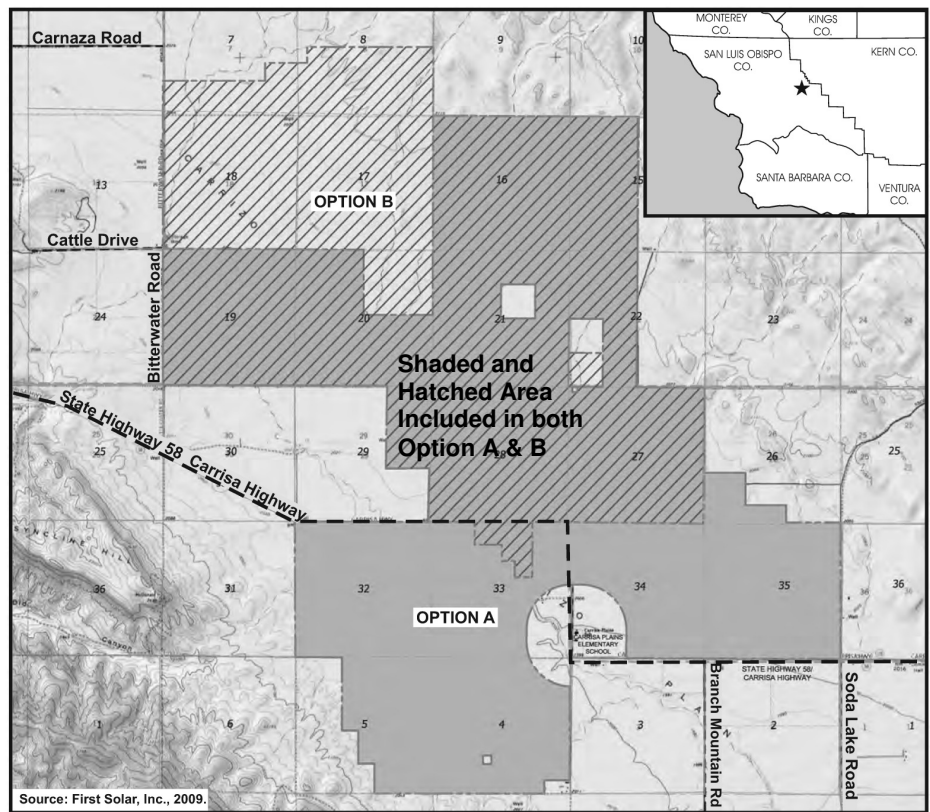
The San Luis Obispo County Planning & Building Department (Planning) is continuing its environmental review pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for the proposed Topaz Solar Farm (First Solar) Conditional Use Permit, a request to establish a 550 MW solar power plant on an approximate 4,300- to 4,500-acre (seven-square-mile) site.

SUBSEQUENT SCOPING MEETING

The subsequent scoping meeting will discuss the additional study area - Option A which includes part of Option B and continues further south (see Figure). The original proposed project is **Option B** which includes approximately 1,920 acres of land currently under Williamson Act contract.

The additional study area is **Option A** which avoids all lands under the Land Conservation Act of 1965 (Williamson Act).

Both Option A and Option B are being analyzed in this EIR as project options, and only one option would be permitted if approved by the County.



The following project components are proposed:

- Construction phase includes the following:
 - Approximately 400 daily construction workers are expected over a 3-year period
 - Four temporary construction staging areas with temporary construction offices
- Operational phase includes the following:
 - Over 7 million solar modules within 437 arrays
 - Each array would occupy approximately seven acres, which includes two inverters and one transformer
 - Semiconductor material uses cadmium telluride
 - Approximately 12 permanent employees
 - Electrical substation and switching station
 - Top of panel about 5.5 feet from ground
 - 7 above-ground lines at about 43 feet from ground
 - Perimeter fencing is six foot high chain link with 3 strands of barb wire on top

The project is located North of Highway 58, and immediately east of Bitterwater Road, approximately five miles northwest of the village of California Valley, in the Shandon-Carrizo planning area.

The EIR will include evaluation of project and cumulative impacts, mitigation measures and project alternatives. The issues to be analyzed include: Aesthetics, Agricultural Resources, Air Quality, Biological Resources, Cultural Resources, Geology and Soils, Hazards/ Hazardous Materials, Noise, Population/ Housing, Public Services/ Utilities, Transportation/ Circulation, Water, and Land Use.

SLO County Planning invites you and other interested persons and organizations to comment on environmental issues to be evaluated as we proceed with preparation of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the project. **COMMENTS DUE BY JUNE 18, 2010. E-mail: tkeith@co.slo.ca.us or send to: Trevor Keith, 976 Osos St, Rm 300, San Luis Obispo, CA 93408.**

Additional information about the project and EIR is posted on the SLO Planning website: go to <http://www.sloplanning.org>, then enter "Topaz" in the 'Search Box'. We encourage your participation in this process. Please contact Trevor Keith at (805) 781-1431 or tkeith@co.slo.ca.us for additional information.